



Date of Application, 10th June, 1904—Accepted, 14th July, 1904.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

Improvements in Pelvical Belts or Bands.

I, GUGLIELMO BRACCO, Senior, Doctor and Surgeon, of 22 Rue Della-Rocco, Turin, in the Kingdom of Italy, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

- 5 The object of my invention is provide a belt or band for supporting or compressing the abdominal viscera or some of them in such cases when the conditions of the body, either by reason of sickness or other causes requires such a treatment. This invention is particularly intended to assist women in a state of pregnancy and after childbirth.
- 10 Belts or bands constructed according to this invention differ from others such as are already known owing to their peculiar form which enables them to vest the body better than any other and renders them steadier and more fixed to the body to the full advantage of their therapeutical function.

- 15 In the accompanying drawings Fig. 1 shows in plan a belt constructed according to this invention entirely laid open and Figs. 2, 3, and 4 shew respectively a front, back and side view of a belt applied to the body of a person.

- The belt or band is composed of three portions *viz*, a central portion A, and two side portions B, C, the portion A intended to vest the pelvis or abdomen and the portions B and C intended to vest the thighs. Each portion is provided
- 20 with a system of buckles and straps for fastening them on to the body.

- When the band or belt is vested on the body the ends D, E of the portion A are fastened in a straight vertical line in correspondence with the xipho-pubical line through the full width of the belt or band, the other two portions are made of such a shape that the lower parts thereof, F, G, F¹, G¹ run vertically on the
- 25 external side of the thigh, whilst the upper parts G, H, G¹, H¹, follows the lower border I H of the central portion of the belt by the buttocks.

- The belt or band may be made of any known material such as cloth of various qualities, but it is preferred to construct it as shewn in the drawings from which it will be seen that the belt is built up of strips of small width, about one
- 30 centremetre wide, interlaced and sewn to each other so as to form a kind of net-work. By this means it becomes easy to attain the desired result, *viz*, that the portion of belt or band under the longitudinal strip *a a*¹, *b b*¹ becomes one and the same piece embracing jointly thighs and pelvis. In fact all the longitudinal strips which are formed under *a b* and have a direction parallel
- 35 to it are common to the central and to the side portions of the belt or band, so that every element of the side portion bears for its pull on the back of the person and the central and side portions of the belt or band are consequently coacting in a single effort.

- The longitudinal strips *a b* of the central portion are interlaced with vertical
- 40 strips *m n* having a direction parallel to the back bone. They are also interlaced in the side portions with strips *r s* crossing at a small angle and strengthening cross strips *t u* are employed near the junction between the central and side portions.

- The general shape of the band or belt is clearly shewn in the several figures
- 45 of the drawings, but attention is drawn to the following features. I—The upper border of the central portion runs in the front near the navel and follows on

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the flanks and the back near the upper margin of the iliac bones. II—The upper border of the thigh portions has a shape which appears curvilinear in Fig. 1, and when the belt or band is applied, said border follows exactly the inguinal, genito-crural and gluteal plies by the root of the thighs, and is connected directly to a middle strip *a b* of the back central portion of the belt or band. Said middle strip *a b* extends beyond the central portion becoming a strip *aa*¹—*bb*¹ of the thigh portions; the same thing happening for all strips lower than the said strip *a b*. III.—The portion of belt or band which lays under the middle strip *a b* is functionally and materially one and the same piece embracing jointly thighs and pelvis. IV.—The systems of buckles N M—N¹ M¹, M L—M¹ L¹, with their respective tongues H G,—H¹ G¹ G F—G¹ F¹, are such that the first one co-operates to connect the thigh portions with the central portion of the band or belt, whilst the second is employed to bind the thighs and generate a friction sufficient to prevent any movement of the belt. This action substitutes, with better efficiency and less molestation, the ordinary underthighs of other belts.

The functional characteristic of this belt or band is consequently its steadiness in respect of the person employing it, which steadiness is due to the fact that the band or belt can vest the thighs and the pelvis with a perfect co-operation and connection of all its parts.

The described construction of the belt or band by means of strips can be clearly characterised and identified in practice, by saying that the pulling strips,—that is with the exception of the secondary or filling such as *m n*—have the same position as would be assumed by a cord which were wound around the pelvis and the thighs following a sort of double 8 as shewn at Fig. 2. Assuming such a winding to have been made with a sufficient number of strips parallel to each other, and that these are cut vertically on the abdomen and under the angle H G F, on the sides as shewn in Fig. 4, we obtain a belt or band which laid open has the form of Fig. 1 and the functional characters previously described.

The belt or band can be made to measure, so as to fit to all sinuosity of the body. To this end a model of the body by means of a starched or plastered band could be obtained and then the belt or band could be made according to the said model.

If instead of many small strips we employed a single large strip or band we would obtain a belt having no more the appearance of a net-work, but the appearance of a belt made with the usual stuffs.

It is to be understood that the principle of construction above described allows some details to be modified without departing from the spirit of the invention. For instance the buckles D E could be made in the back instead of in front; this however would be troublesome. The belt could also be made in one piece with or attached to the corset if this should be considered convenient.

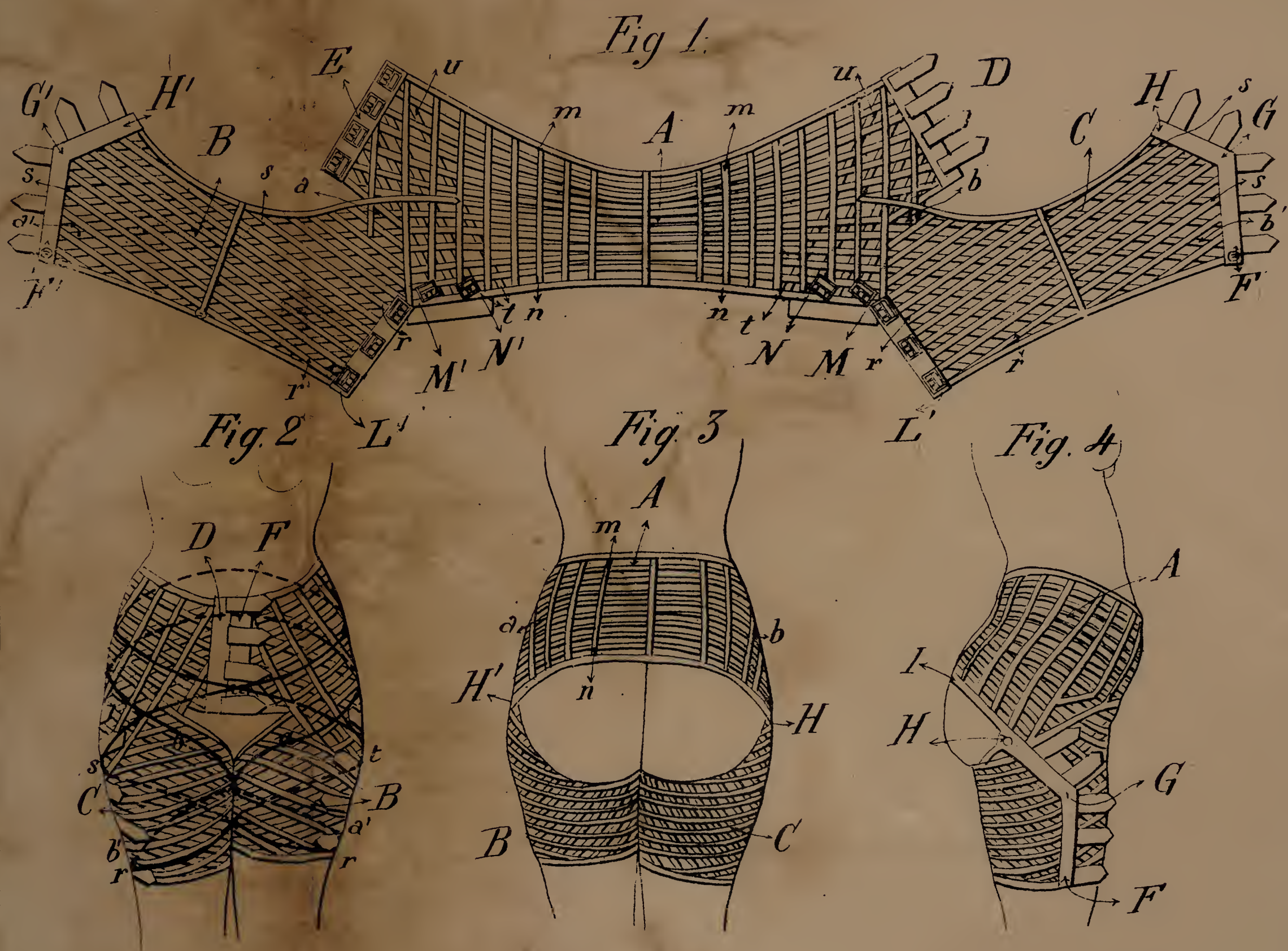
Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:

1. A belt or band for supporting or compressing the abdominal viscera characterised by a central portion for the pelvis and two side portions for the thighs with means of fastening at the centre of the abdomen and at the sides of the thighs, substantially as described.

2. A belt or band made of a net-work of strips in such a manner as to evenly distribute the action of the belt or band over the parts covered, substantially as described.

Dated this 10th day of June 1904.

ABEL & IMRAY,
Agents for the Applicant.



[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]

